

Message Text

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PAGE 01 LA PAZ 05321 311523Z

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ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 PM-03 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00

NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 MC-02 ACDA-05

EB-07 AID-05 /075 W

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R 311410Z JUL 75

FM AMEMBASSY LA PAZ

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7513

USCINCSO

:DOD/ISA WASHDC

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: MASS MILI BL

SUBJECT: FMS CREDITS FOR FY 76

1. IN A RECENT CONVERSATION WITH PRESIDENT BANZER, HE INDICATED TO ME THAT HE WOULD APPRECIATE HAVING AN INCREASED AMOUNT OF FMS CREDIT FOR FY76 SO AS TO PROVIDE A SMALL AMOUNT FOR THE BOLIVIAN NAVY AND A LARGER AMOUNT TO PROVIDE MEDICAL EQUIPMENT FOR THE MILITARY HOSPITAL. SUBSEQUENT TO THIS CONVERSATION, I TALKED WITH GENERAL VILLALPANDO, ARMY G-3, WHO REPORTED THAT PRESIDENT BANZER HAD PASSED THE WORD TO THE ARMED FORCES THAT ANY FY-76 FMS CREDITS WOULD BE ALLOCATED AS HE HAD INFORMED ME. GEN. VILLALPANDO SAID THAT THE BOLIVIAN NAVY AND THE MINISTRY OF DEFENSE WERE PREPARING SPECIFIC REQUIREMENTS FOR OUR CONSIDERATION, TO BE FINANCED BY ANY FM 76 FMS CREDITS.

2. THE POTENTIAL ALLOCATION FOR THE BOLIVIAN NAVY WOULD PROBABLY BE IN THE NEIGHBORHOOD OF \$1 MILLION AND PROBABLY WOULD BE USED TO PURCHASE SMALL CRAFT FOR USE IN THE BOLIVIAN RIVER SYSTEM. AS REPORTED IN PREVIOUS COMMUNICATIONS, THE MILITARY HOSPITAL COULD CONSUME UPWARDS OF \$8 MILLION IN EQUIPMENT. THE MILGP HAS BEEN IN FREQUENT TOUCH WITH THE MINISTRY OF DEFENSE SO AS TO GET A CLEAR PICTURE OF BASIC
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PAGE 02 LA PAZ 05321 311523Z

NECESSITIES. A SURVEY HAS BEEN PERFORMED BY THE AMERICAN

HOSPITAL SUPPLY CO. AND A CONSIDERABLE AMOUNT OF RATHER
SPHISTICATED EQUIPMENT HAS BEEN DESCRIBED BY AHS FOR THE
HOSPITAL. WE BELIEVE THAT SINCE SOME EQUIPMENT IS ALREADY IN
COUNTRY THROUGH THE MILGP, AND WITH FURTHER COUNSELING,
REQUIREMENTS CAN BE REDUCED. THUS THE VALUE OF BASIC
EQUIPMENT FOR THE HOSPITAL MAY BE SOMEWHERE IN THE NEIGHBOR-
HOOD OF \$8-\$10 MILLION, BUT COULD BE MORE.

3. WE THEREFORE NOW BELIEVE THAT BOLIVIA COULD ABSORB FROM
\$9-11 MILLION IN FMS CREDITS IN FY 76. WE THEREFORE REQUEST
FAVORABLE CONSIDERATION OF AN ALLOCATION OF THAT AMOUNT
EITHER AS A DIRECT REQUEST IN APPROPRIATIONS FROM THE CONGRESS
OR FROM FALLOUT OF OTHER PROGRAMS WHICH MAY BE REDUCED DURING
THE COURSE OF THE FISCAL YEAR. WE WILL BE OBTAINING AND
REPORTING ADDITIONAL INFORMATION ON BOTH THE NAVY AND HOSPITAL
REQUIREMENTS SO AS TO SUPPORT THIS REQUEST AND TO FACILITATE
FAVORABLE CONSIDERATION BY WASHINGTON AGENCIES.
STEDMAN

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: CREDIT, FUND ALLOTMENT, MILITARY SALES, FOREIGN ASSISTANCE
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 31 JUL 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: GolinoFR
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975LAPAZ05321
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750264-1175
From: LA PAZ
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t1975075/aaaaadtm.tel
Line Count: 79
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION ARA
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: GolinoFR
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 03 SEP 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <03 SEP 2003 by ShawDG>; APPROVED <04 DEC 2003 by GolinoFR>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
06 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: FMS CREDITS FOR FY 76
TAGS: MASS, MILI, BL, US
To: STATE DOD
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 06 JUL 2006